THE
DISSEMINATOR
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As with the Unpaid Leave legislation last year, there are still many unanswered questions which will be clarified in the next few months. There is an "800" number provided in the letter which all staff should have received from the Minister of Human Resources and you are encouraged to use this if you have questions regarding how this legislation affects you. Chief Librarians and administrators can contact Betsy Armstrong, or call the "800" number, if they need clarification on how the legislation affects their organization. If you do use the "800" number, please also forward your question and the answer to Betsy so that she can share appropriate information with other regions. DARTMOUTH HOLDINGS NOW ON NCOMPASS

The DRL tape has been successfully loaded, and the holdings of the Dartmouth Regional Library are now on NcompasS. Please note that any holdings that had not been previously translated into MARC records are not included; this includes some car manuals, and some of the "Dartmouth Collection". Please let us know if you have any problems viewing records for DRL, or if you notice anything unusual.

CATALOGUING CORNER

You may have noticed differences between Dewey numbers appearing on COMCAT and those appearing in the item record on NcompasS. This difference is the result of past requests by your region for a call number differing from the primary Dewey number we chose when cataloguing. Alternate call numbers were coded with a $r on Utlas and appeared in brackets on COMCAT.

The situation was further complicated because the $r was also used to code other things. Therefore, it wasn't possible for multiLIS to automatically transfer the data from the $r in the UTLAS record into the shelf number field in your item record. If you check the 090 field in the bibliographic record, you will see that your alternate Dewey still appears there.

We have logged all occurrences of $r and are presently working towards rectifying this situation. The Regions may edit their own item records as they see fit and do not need to notify Provincial Library unless new cards are requested.

CHEBUCTO FREENET NEWS

The Freenet has been removed from the Internet while negotiations are underway for an Internet provider. Discussions are still underway with government agencies to solicit support and to encourage them to be information providers. Organizers of freenets around the world have expressed great interest in the software that David Trueman's team have developed at Dalhousie University.

Andrew Patrick, Vice President of the National Capital Freenet,

visited Halifax during Information Rights Week and spent a day working with Chebucto Freenet volunteers. His comments were very supportive and encouraging.

DOCUMENT DELIVERY CONFERENCE

The NS Resource Sharing Committee organized a Document Delivery Conference on April 21 and 22, bringing together library staff from various types of libraries around the province. Discussions focused on document delivery, interlibrary loan, and the ways that technology is changing the traditional library. It was recognized that all types of libraries need to work together to ensure that information gets to the right person at the right time. MEETING ON ONE STOP CENTRES

Following the Document Delivery Conference, Regional Librarians and Provincial Library staff attended a meeting with Connie Carruthers and Frank LeTourneau, organizers of the One Stop Centres. Five centres are being planned and will be located around the province, with the first to open in June. There was consensus at the meeting that libraries should be recognized as an existing information provider and that the One Stop Centres should be linked closely with libraries, through physical and/or electronic means. The One Stop Centres are being staffed through secondments from the public service.

SERVICE TO THE DISABLED

Andrea John is currently working with a group from across Canada to develop national guidelines for library services to persons with a disability. The intent of this project is to go beyond the existing national guidelines and building codes which prescribe physical access standards. A local working group has been struck to do the first round of work: Peter Webster (Saint Mary's University), Donna Whitman (Sir Frederick Fraser School), Charles MacDonald (Disabled Persons Commission), Nancy Fullerton (Halifax City Regional Library) and Sylvia Brookhouse (CNIB, Truro). The group's ideas will be forwarded to CNIB's national office where they will be merged with other submissions from across Canada. A document will then be produced and distributed for feedback.

E-MAIL Q & A

Q: Sometimes after opening my mail, I can't get my IN box to open. I've tried clicking on Mailbox in the menu, and then on IN but it still doesn't open. Is there another way to get this to open?

A: Usually, if you close Eudora with the IN box open, it will still be open the next time you use Eudora. If it's stubborn (or hidden), an easy way to find the IN box is to click on "Window" in the main menu bar and then on "Tile". The IN box should then appear.

Q: Sometimes the title bar and function buttons on my windows are hidden so I can't use them. I can't get at the title bar to drag the window down or adjust it. How is this problem solved?

A: If your window is hiding things on you, try clicking on "Window" in the main menu bar and then click on "Tile". This should adjust the window so you'll have access to the function buttons. For more information contact Susan Barnes (sbarnes).

INTERNET Q & A

Q: What kind of reference tools are available on the Internet and how can I find them? A: The CIA World Factbook, zip code directories, Webster's Dictionary, and the Periodic Table of the Elements are just a few of the reference sources found on the Internet. To find a collection of them called the Virtual Reference Desk (catchy names are paramount!), use the Gopher to get to the University of California - Irvine (Other gophers in the world, North America, USA, California). The VRD is mounted on their gopher.

Another way to get there, sometimes quicker - sometimes not, is to use Veronica to find it for you. Click on Internet Resources from the main Gopher menu, then on Search Titles in Gopherspace using Veronica. Click on any of the items beginning with Search Gopher DIRECTORY Titles (they all perform the same function but at various Internet sites). Enter "virtual reference". Provided the host site isn't too busy, you will be provided with a long list of Virtual Reference Desks. These mostly all contain the same tools so you can pick and choose the one you want to look at. For more information contact Sue Dirani (sdirani).

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That's it for this issue. Stay tuned . . . . . .
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If you have any questions or comments about the activities mentioned, please contact the people involved.

We encourage readers to comment on items found in THE DISSEMINATOR and/or make suggestions about content. These comments should be directed to Sue Dirani or DonnaBourne-Tyson.

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